

PHOTO INKJET PRINTERS

INTRODUCTION

If you've been taking photos since the days of film, you'll remember having to wait around for a lab to develop your shots. Thankfully, those days are long gone. If you have a digital camera, or even a scanner to copy negatives, you can get high-quality photo prints in seconds at home.

Today even general-purpose inkjet printers can turn out surprisingly good photos. However, prints from a photo inkjet can rival the quality of a professional lab. With features such as direct printing from a camera or memory card, photo inkjets make it easy to get the most from your shots. Some printers even allow you to apply corrections to images.

This month we've gathered six A4 photo inkjets from as little as £52, and three A3+ inkjets costing up to £403. Whether you want to get the best from your family snaps or fancy yourself as the next David Bailey, we'll help you find the right printer.

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PHOTO FINISH

Why pay over the odds for photo prints from the high street when an inkjet printer can give superior-quality prints for £50? We round up the best photo printers to put you in the picture

Choosing a... Photo Inkjet Printer

You don't need a huge budget to buy a good-quality photo inkjet, but a bit of research will ensure that you're getting the best you can afford. Don't assume that print quality always improves with price: the cheapest printer in this test produces photos that are almost a match for those from the most expensive model. Look for a printer with the features you need, and remember that you're likely to spend more on ink over its lifetime than on the printer itself. None of these printers comes with a USB cable, so you'll need to buy one if you don't have a spare.

QUALITY STREET

The most important consideration when buying a photo printer is the quality of its photo prints. Good photo inkjets print with very small droplets of ink, so you're unlikely to spot many dots of grain in your photos. A high resolution means the printer can place ink more accurately on the page, but it won't guarantee a better-looking print. Other considerations such as colour accuracy and the apparent sharpness of the picture can vary, and the only way to judge these is to print some high-resolution photos and examine them side by side. Luckily we've done that for you, and our reviews tell you which printers are good or bad in these respects.

Where general-purpose inkjets use four ink colours, most photo printers use six or more. All inkjets use black, cyan, magenta and yellow inks, which six-ink printers supplement with additional, lighter shades of cyan and magenta. This allows six-ink printers to create light tones using more dots of light colour where a four-ink printer would use fewer dots of a darker colour. As these light dots contrast less with the paper around them, the six-ink result looks less grainy.

The extra colours also allow for finer control of shading, with a slightly improved range of tones. The most expensive printer in this test, Canon's PIXMA Pro 9000, has two extra colours. Canon claims that these improve its range, or gamut, further; the downside is that you'll have even more different cartridges to buy.

SCREEN PRINTS

Though print quality doesn't necessarily improve with price, spending more does generally buy you more features. The most basic photo inkjets have just one USB port, allowing you to connect them to your computer. Most also have a PictBridge USB port, so you can connect a digital camera directly to the printer. PictBridge is an easy system to use and saves you having to turn on your computer if you just want to



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print some quick snaps, but it lets you set only basic options such as paper size and whether or not to print with borders.

You'll get more control over direct prints if you buy a printer with a memory card reader. Many printers with card slots also have a large colour screen, allowing you to select photos to print and preview the results of any editing features such as red-eye correction. You can also use a printer's card reader to back up digital photos on to your computer, but it's important to buy a printer that supports the type of memory card used by your camera. Canon's PIXMA iP6700D, for example, can't read an xD card without an adaptor.

Printing from your computer gives you the opportunity to edit your prints in detail, view print previews and set advanced options before you print, but you'll need at least a basic photo-editing package. Many of the printers in this group come with suitable software, but you may need to buy a better package if you'll be performing advanced image edits such as retouching, or if you need to work with layers.

MEDIA STUDIES

It's quite expensive to keep a photo printer in paper and ink, particularly if you're printing lots of huge A3+ photos. Our table compares how much each A4 page of mixed text and graphics is likely to cost, but a borderless photo will use

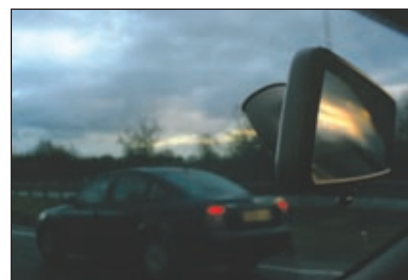
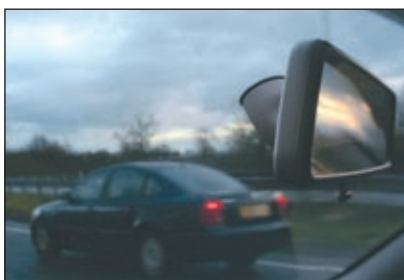
between three and five times as much ink. Although you can buy cheaper third-party inks, the photo tests in our consumables Labs test (*Shopper* August 2006) showed that the printer manufacturers' own inks produce the best photos. If you're tempted to experiment with cheaper supplies, we recommend waiting until your printer is no longer under warranty.

Even the best photo printers produce flat, lifeless photos on plain paper, so coated photo paper is essential for the best results. Each

manufacturer sells its own media which will generally give you the best results. Even so, not all papers in a range may be suitable. Dark colours often look slightly milky on ultra-high gloss papers, and many photographers prefer a semi-gloss or pearl finish. If you're unsure which paper to choose, buy small 6x4in packs for tests.

Finally, although your print costs will be considerable, prints from a lab are more expensive. It's cheaper to print A4 and A3 photos at home than to send them to a lab for printing.

Photo finish Direct print comparisons



▲ Some aspects of print quality are down to personal preference, as the above images, printed directly using PictBridge, show. The print from Canon's PIXMA iP5300 (left) is grain-free and true to the original. However, Epson's Stylus Photo R265 (right) has gently enhanced colour and contrast, giving the shot more impact



EPSON Stylus Photo R265

★★★★★

£52 inc VAT



Epson's Stylus Photo R265 is the most affordable printer in this Labs and, as you might expect, it has few of the features found on more expensive printers. Though it has a PictBridge USB port, there are no memory card slots. Like the other Epson printers reviewed here it has only one paper input tray, so you'll need to unload your stock of photo paper if you want to print a letter or spreadsheet.

The R265 is built around the same print engine as the Stylus Photo R360. Epson's installation utility is simple and offers the choice of a simple installation or one where you can choose custom components. It doesn't prompt you to perform a head alignment, though, which is a single-page manual process.

Our initial print tests showed that, as with many other Epson photo printers we've reviewed, the R265 isn't particularly good at printing on plain paper. At the default Text quality setting it was a bit slow, and produced black text with spidery outlines. Raising the quality setting to Photo improved text, though it still wasn't ideal for formal correspondence. Graphics printed at this quality looked detailed, but their colours were a little dull and flat. The printer was comparatively slow at any quality setting.

The R265 is much more at home when printing photos. Even at its top quality setting, it was faster than all but Canon's £403 PIXMA Pro. The results were superb for such an affordable printer, with accurate colours and high but natural contrast levels that help to reproduce subtle details in the darkest and lightest areas of photos. The printer's PictBridge results were about as good as those from the PIXMA iP5300, but subtle enhancements to colour and contrast meant that most people preferred the R265's output.

VERDICT

Given its slow and underwhelming plain-paper printing the R265 isn't an ideal general-purpose inkjet, and without memory card slots you'll need to do editing on a PC. If you just want to print great photos, though, it's a fantastic buy.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Excellent photo quality
- ✓ Great price
- ✗ Slow, inferior plain-paper prints

SIX-COLOUR INKJET 5,760x1,440dpi maximum resolution, USB and PictBridge USB interfaces
PART CODE C11C653021
SUPPLIER www.amazon.co.uk
DETAILS www.epson.co.uk



HP Photosmart D5160

★★★

£58 inc VAT

HP's Photosmart D5160 is the only printer in this review that has memory card slots but no colour preview screen. Instead, you can display the contents of an inserted memory card by printing A4 proof sheets. Each picture is given a number and you can use the basic mono LCD to select the numbers you wish to print. This system isn't as straightforward as using the large colour preview screens on Epson's R360 and Canon's PIXMA iP6700D printers, but it helps to keep the D5160's price low.

This printer is one of just two in this test that use combined tri-colour cartridges, rather than a separate tank for each ink. It comes with a cyan, magenta and yellow tri-colour cartridge and a photo supply that contains black, photo cyan and photo magenta. HP also supplies a black ink cartridge, which you'll need to fit for the best performance and value when printing on plain paper. The print heads are aligned automatically whenever a new cartridge is inserted, but it's still a hassle. At least the cartridges included in the box are high-capacity models that should last for many pages.

The D5160 uses the same cartridges as many of HP's DeskJet general-purpose inkjets, so it's no surprise that it performs well on plain paper. It produced draft text quickly, beating all the other printers in this round-up and even outpacing seven of the nine colour laser printers we reviewed in *Labs* last month. At higher quality settings, it fell behind some of the other printers here but it produced consistently high-quality results.

With its cartridges switched around for six-ink photo printing, the D5160 was less impressive. It was the only printer here that produced any visible banding and its results were more grainy than those from the Epson and Canon printers. Colours were broadly accurate, though prints seemed slightly washed out. Dark colours lacked the impact of Epson's printers.

VERDICT

The D5160 is quite affordable and comes with generous cartridges. On plain paper it's impressive, but it's not a good photo printer.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Good plain-paper performance
- ✗ Unimpressive photos
- ✗ Requires fiddly cartridge swaps

SIX-COLOUR INKJET 4,800x1,200dpi maximum resolution, USB and PictBridge USB interfaces
PART CODE Q7091B
SUPPLIER www.amazon.co.uk
DETAILS www.hp.co.uk



HP Photosmart D6160

★★★★

£68 inc VAT

There's little price difference between HP's Photosmart D6160 and the D5160, but they're very different printers. At first glance, the D6160 looks like a Photosmart D7160 (see *What's New, Shopper* January 2007) that HP forgot to fit with a screen and card reader.

Like the D7160, the D6160 takes six individual cartridges that clip in behind the front panel. They're brightly coloured and designed so it's impossible to fit one in the wrong slot. The D6160 takes several minutes to prime itself when you first insert the cartridges and there's no screen to reassure you during the process. The print heads are permanent and supplied with ink via capillary tubes, so you don't have to re-align them when you replace a cartridge. It's a good idea to do so occasionally, though, and it's automatic.

Like the other HP printers in this review, it's easy to install the D6160's software. HP's setup program includes a custom option that lets you install potentially useful programs such as Photosmart Premier image-editing software, and avoid optional components such as the Customer Participation Program.

We were pleasantly surprised by how much better the D6160's photos were than the D5160's. Grain seemed less obvious and there was no trace of banding, and colours were so much deeper and richer that we went back to double-check the D5160 results in case we had installed the wrong cartridges. Only in our black-and-white test image did the D6160's darker bias produce an inferior result.

HP's Premium Photo Paper High-Gloss produced a superior, more consistent finish than Premium Photo Paper Glossy, but neither gives the hard, high-gloss finish produced by Epson and Canon. The D6160's plain-paper results were the best in this test, though, with a great combination of speed and quality.

VERDICT

The D6160 is even better than the D5160 on plain paper, and produces far better photos. The Epson and Canon printers produce better photos, though, and HP's own D7160, with a large colour screen, costs just £13 more.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Superb plain-paper printing
- ✓ Reasonable photo prints
- ✗ HP's own D7160 is better value

SIX-COLOUR INKJET 4,800x1,200dpi maximum resolution, USB Hi-Speed and PictBridge USB interfaces
PART CODE C9089B
SUPPLIER www.morecomputers.co.uk
DETAILS www.hp.co.uk



EPSON Stylus Photo R360

★★★★★

£82 inc VAT

Epson's Stylus Photo R360 is an almost identical shape and size to the Stylus Photo R265. The two printers share the same print engine, which uses six inks. Each is contained in a separate cartridge so they're easy to replace as and when they run out. Only Canon's PIXMA iP5300 and iP6700D print at a higher resolution or use smaller droplets of ink.

The R360's extensive direct-printing support is the main difference between it and its cheaper cousin. Its PictBridge USB port can also be used to connect to and print directly from certain storage devices. It has slots for the most-common memory card types and a huge 8.9cm screen for previewing their contents.

The menu system is easy to use and has basic editing functions. Though it's quick to flick through the contents of an inserted card, we missed the excellent thumbnail mode available on Epson's PictureMate 240; see *What's New, Shopper* February 2007.

As you might expect given their similarity, the R360 performed almost identically to the R265 in our tests. Unfortunately, this means its results on plain paper were poor, but its photo prints were great. We couldn't spot any grain in our prints from a PC or an SD card.

All three Epson printers produced accurate, strong colours across our photo tests and produced an excellent lab-quality finish on Epson's Premium Glossy and Semi-Gloss photo papers. However, we noticed a slight softness in photos when compared to Canon's PIXMA printers, resulting in the loss of some fine detailing in middling and light regions. Conversely, Epson's printers produced dark colours with more impact, revealing more detail in shaded areas. We felt these strong colours were adequate compensation for the loss of sharpness.

VERDICT

Like the Stylus Photo R265, the R360 is an excellent photo printer, but it isn't suitable if you'll print plenty of plain-paper documents. Its direct-printing features make it easy to get the best from a digital camera, but at over £80 it's not as good value as the R265.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Excellent photo quality
- ✓ Large colour screen
- ✗ Slow, inferior plain-paper prints

SIX-COLOUR INKJET 5,760x1,440dpi maximum resolution, USB Hi-Speed and PictBridge USB interfaces
PART CODE C11C658021
SUPPLIER www.amazon.co.uk
DETAILS www.epson.co.uk



CANON PIXMA iP5300

★★★★

£93 inc VAT

We've never been convinced that Canon's PIXMA range has the designer styling that the company claims, but the iP5300 is the best-looking printer in this test. With the input and output trays closed, it's a shiny black box with silver trim at the corners.

Like many other PIXMA models, the iP5300 has two paper inputs as standard. You can use the tray at the rear to store plain paper while, for example, you keep sheets of photo paper dust-free in the cassette. Automatic duplexing is included as standard, so you can print on both sides of each sheet without having to re-feed paper manually.

Unusually, the iP5300 prints with five inks. The largest tank contains a pigment black ink used for text printing on plain paper, while four smaller tanks contain black, cyan, magenta and yellow dye inks. The three colour dye inks are used to print graphics on plain paper, and all four dye inks are used to create photo prints.

This printer and the PIXMA iP6700D have the highest print head specification in this review. Each prints with a very high 9,600x2,400dpi resolution, using droplets of ink as small as one picolitre. With such accurate placement of ink, it's perhaps not surprising that the iP5300 delivered particularly sharp and detailed photos, resolving fine details more clearly than the Epson or HP printers. Colours seemed a little weak, though, and the iP5300's PictBridge prints seemed bland when compared to those from Epson's Stylus Photo R265.

Like the A4 HP printers, the iP5300 is at home printing on plain paper, delivering sharp, dark black text very quickly. Its colour graphics weren't a match for HP's printers, with colours that lacked impact and had a mild sepia bias.

VERDICT

The iP5300 is a good printer that can produce fast, high-quality results on plain or coated paper. However, it has a near-identical specification to the iP4300 (see 'Also consider...', page 26), and the two performed almost exactly the same in our tests. We can't find a single reason not to save yourself £36 and buy the iP4300.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Fast and flexible
- ✓ Duplex printing
- ✗ Canon's iP4300 is as good, and cheaper

FIVE-COLOUR INKJET 9,600x2,400dpi maximum resolution, USB Hi-Speed and PictBridge USB interfaces
PART CODE 1439B008AA
SUPPLIER www.misco.co.uk
DETAILS www.canon.co.uk



CANON PIXMA iP6700D

★★★★★

£106 inc VAT

At £106 including VAT Canon's PIXMA iP6700D may be on the pricy side, but it looks a bargain next to the iP5300. For £13 more, you get a printer with the same highly specified print head that also has a full six-ink setup. There's also a memory card reader with a huge colour screen, but it can't read xD cards without an adaptor.

As with the other PIXMA printers in this round-up, you have to insert the iP6700D's print head before you fit its cartridges and begin to print; this isn't complicated, though. Canon's software is as easy to install as the others here, and the driver it installs has the clearest layout, with options grouped into five tabs. It's easy to select advanced paper-handling features such as duplex printing, and there are some thoughtful touches, such as the automatic photo paper type selection when you choose to print without borders.

The iP6700D uses dye-based inks, and without a pigment-based black cartridge it can't match iP5300's high-quality text prints. Though it isn't particularly quick when printing colour graphics, the results have stronger colours and a slightly cooler, more accurate tone than those from the iP5300.

This printer's photos were among the best in this test. They had a similar sharpness to those from the iP5300, but with better control of subtly different colour shades that helped to reproduce even more detail. Colours seemed more punchy than the iP5300's, but very dark shades still lacked impact on Canon's Photo Paper Pro and we preferred the results using Photo Paper Plus, which is slightly less glossy. Prints from a memory card were a touch warm, but this made for flattering portraits.

VERDICT

The iP6700D doesn't excel on plain paper, but it is capable of producing decent everyday results with reasonable running costs. It's a great printer that makes it easy to print without your PC, but it costs twice as much as Epson's R265. It's worth the extra only if you need to do everyday prints as well as photos.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Great, highly detailed photo prints
- ✓ Duplex printing; large colour screen
- ✗ Expensive

SIX-COLOUR INKJET 9,600x2,400dpi maximum resolution, USB Hi-Speed, PictBridge USB and IrDA infrared interfaces
PART CODE 1441B008AA
SUPPLIER www.amazon.co.uk
DETAILS www.canon.co.uk





HP Photosmart Pro B8350

★★

£204 inc VAT

HP's B8350 is the most affordable A3+ inkjet we've reviewed. It's the only printer in this review without any form of direct printing. Like the other two HP printers, the B8350 stores paper in a tray at the front, so it takes up far less room on a desk than Epson's Stylus Photo 1400 or Canon's PIXMA Pro 9000.

Like the Photosmart D5160, the B8350 uses the same range of ink cartridges as HP's general-purpose printers. Although this makes sense in an affordable printer such as the D5160, it's not ideal in an A3+ printer aimed at keen photographers. The cartridges' five-picolitre minimum droplet size is large for a serious photo printer. The small print heads, while big enough to make quick work of an A4 photo, begin to look slow over an A3+ page with 2½ times the area. The B8350 took 21 minutes and 18 seconds to print a borderless A3+ page in our test, making it over three times slower than the PIXMA Pro 9000.

The B8350's photos were markedly worse than those from the other two A3+ printers. We tested using HP's Premium Photo Paper Glossy, which doesn't produce the consistent high-gloss finish we'd expect from a high-end photo printer. Colours were undersaturated, robbing bright areas of their impact, while dark regions looked murky, with a slightly filmy quality. Our darkest test photo was spoiled by two lighter bands running across its width.

We wouldn't recommend buying an A3+ photo printer if you intend to use it for everyday text printing, though the B8350 did reasonably well in our regular print tests. Its print quality was as good as we'd expect from a typical inkjet, but the speeds were slower.

VERDICT

This printer is aimed at photographers, but it misses by a fair margin. However, it's competent on plain paper and is affordable and compact for an A3+ inkjet. If you want an A3+ inkjet for plain-paper work, however, we'd recommend Canon's PIXMA iX5000, reviewed in *What's New, Shopper* August 2006.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Compact; affordable
- ✗ Comparatively poor photo quality
- ✗ Very slow photo prints

SIX-COLOUR A3+ INKJET 4,800x1,200dpi maximum resolution, USB Hi-Speed interface
PART CODE Q8492B
SUPPLIER www.dabs.com
DETAILS www.hp.co.uk



EPSON Stylus Photo 1400

★★★★★

£255 inc VAT



Epson's Stylus Photo 1400 looks remarkably like the Stylus Photo R1800, reviewed in *What's New, Shopper* July 2005. However, there are a few important differences. Unlike the R1800, the 1400 can't use roll-fed paper and it has no FireWire interface. Furthermore, it uses conventional dye-based inks rather than the R1800's pigment ink and gloss cartridge. Dye-based inks typically fade faster than pigment inks, but Wilhelm Imaging Research figures suggest that prints from the 1400 will resist fading for 98 years if displayed behind glass.

One feature present on the 1400 but not the R1800 is a PictBridge port. You'd have to be brave to send an expensive A3+ print directly from a digital camera, but this could be useful if you just need to print a few smaller prints. Only the Stylus Photo R265 was quicker than the 1400 when printing from a camera.

Like the other two Epson printers in this Labs, the 1400's print heads can only be aligned using a manual process. This is reasonably painless and involves printing only one page, but it's a shame you can't do it automatically. As we'd expect from a printer aimed at serious photography use, the 1400 is a non-starter when it comes to printing on plain paper. It was slowest in all our plain-paper tests and the results were poor.

We were more surprised by the poor colour accuracy of the first photo prints sent from our PC. We experimented with various settings in the driver to no avail, before manually setting the printer's colour profile in its Windows Printers and Faxes properties dialog. With this done, it produced the best A3+ results in this test, with vibrant but natural colours, no grain and sharp, precise detailing. Our A3+ test photo took 11 minutes and 52 seconds.

VERDICT

The 1400's excellent photo prints are almost on a par with those from the R1800 and their longevity is nearly as good. The faster R1800 is a better printer, but it's costly and this is a good alternative at a great price.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Superb-quality photo prints
- ✓ Quick, even on A3+ paper
- ✗ Need to set colour profile manually

SIX-COLOUR A3+ INKJET 5,760x1,440dpi maximum resolution, USB Hi-Speed and PictBridge USB interfaces
PART CODE C11C655031
SUPPLIER www.morecomputers.co.uk
DETAILS www.epson.co.uk



CANON PIXMA Pro 9000

★★★★

£403 inc VAT

Even for an A3+ photo printer, Canon's PIXMA Pro 9000 is expensive. It costs nearly £150 more than Epson's Stylus Photo 1400 and is around £50 more than the Stylus Photo R1800. With the paper input and output trays open, it's massive, requiring even more space than the bulky 1400.

Strangely, the Pro 9000's print head has a lower maximum resolution than the two more affordable Canon printers in this test. It prints with no fewer than eight inks, though, with a conventional six-ink setup of black, cyan, magenta, yellow, photo cyan and photo magenta that's supplemented by green and red inks, which Canon says widen the printer's colour gamut. Like the 1400, the inks are dye-based, but Canon's figures put their fade resistance at only 30 years when displayed under glass.

The Pro 9000 proved surprisingly capable in our plain-paper tests, but it was at its best when printing photos. It was incredibly quick to complete each of our regular tests and dashed off a borderless A3+ photo in just six minutes and 24 seconds; a remarkably fast result.

Unfortunately, the Pro 9000's photos aren't up to the standards we'd expect from such an expensive printer. As with the more affordable PIXMA printers, they're sharp and extremely detailed, but their colour accuracy isn't perfect. Black wasn't as deep as in prints from the 1400. Many test shots printed with a considerable green cast, while images with prominent skin tones were too warm and saturated. In only one test, a simple fashion portrait, did the Pro 9000's warmer tone look more suitable than the 1400's cooler, more neutral balance. You can use the driver to adjust the colour tone, but it's harder work than it ought to be.

VERDICT

The Pro 9000 is fearsomely expensive. While a professional photographer may be able to recover the outlay with the sale of high-quality prints, their 30-year display life is shorter than many would expect. Epson's 1400 is far better value, and Epson's R1800 is also a better buy.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Fast, even on A3+ paper
- ✓ Very sharp and detailed photos
- ✗ Expensive; imperfect colour accuracy

EIGHT-COLOUR A3+ INKJET 4,800x2,400dpi maximum resolution, USB Hi-Speed and PictBridge USB interfaces
PART CODE 9995A016AA
SUPPLIER www.misco.co.uk
DETAILS www.canon.co.uk

PHOTO INKJET PRINTERS

A4 PHOTO PRINTERS

A4 PHOTO PRINTERS								A3+ PHOTO PRINTERS	
MANUFACTURER	EPSON	HP	HP	EPSON	CANON	CANON	HP	EPSON	CANON
Model	Stylus Photo R265	Photosmart D5160	Photosmart D6160	Stylus Photo R360	PIXMA iP5300	PIXMA iP6700D	Photosmart Pro B8350	Stylus Photo 1400	PIXMA Pro 9000
Rating	★★★★★	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★
QUOTED SPEEDS									
Quoted speed, mono A4	30ppm	31ppm	32ppm	30ppm	31ppm	18ppm	30ppm	15ppm	16ppm
Quoted speed, colour A4	30ppm	24ppm	31ppm	30ppm	24ppm	17ppm	20ppm	15ppm	15ppm
TESTED SPEEDS									
Test 1, 50-page text document	12m 10s (4.1ppm)	2m 24s (20.8ppm)	2m 49s (17.8ppm)	12m 9s (4.1ppm)	3m 5s (16.2ppm)	5m 41s (8.8ppm)	6m 25s (7.8ppm)	16m 57s (2.9ppm)	5m 12s (9.6ppm)
Test 1, duplex, 50-page text document	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10m 0s (5ppm)	12m 22s (4ppm)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Test 2, letter, time to first page	56s	28s	16s	51s	14s	24s	33s	1m 39s	23s
Test 2, letter, total time for 50 copies	39m 15s (1.3ppm)	17m 43s (2.8ppm)	9m 50s (5.1ppm)	39m 8s (1.3ppm)	5m 19s (9.4ppm)	13m 26s (3.7ppm)	22m 53s (2.2ppm)	1h 14m 33s (0.7ppm)	15m 25s (3.2ppm)
Test 3, mixed colour	27m 28s (0.9ppm)	11m 53s (2ppm)	7m 9s (3.4ppm)	27m 50s (0.9ppm)	9m 2s (2.7ppm)	17m 35s (1.4ppm)	13m 33s (1.8ppm)	43m 47s (0.5ppm)	14m 44s (1.6ppm)
Test 4, two 10x8in photos	8m 17s	11m 59s	11m 17s	8m 24s	8m 39s	8m 28s	16m 0s	10m 11s	3m 54s
Test 5, six 6x4in photos	13m 14s	13m 33s	13m 16s	15m 31s	13m 36s	15m 11s	20m 25s	13m 24s	6m 35s
Test 6, six 6x4in photos, direct print	4m 55s (PictBridge)	8m 43s (SD card)	11m 44s (PictBridge)	13m 8s (SD card)	7m 33s (PictBridge)	9m 50s (SD card)	N/A	5m 33s (PictBridge)	7m 16s (PictBridge)
PRINT QUALITY									
Maximum resolution	5,760x1,440dpi	4,800x1,200dpi	4,800x1,200dpi	5,760x1,440dpi	9,600x2,400dpi	9,600x2,400dpi	4,800x1,200dpi	5,760x1,440dpi	4,800x2,400dpi
Minimum colour droplet size	1.5pl	5pl	5pl	1.5pl	1pl	1pl	5pl	1.5pl	2pl
Number of colours (cartridges)	6 (6)	4 (2)	6 (6)	6 (6)	5 (5)	6 (6)	4 (2)	6 (6)	8 (8)
Maximum number of colours (cartridges)	6 (6)	6 (2)	6 (6)	6 (6)	5 (5)	6 (6)	6 (2)	6 (6)	8 (8)
Quoted photo durability (source)	98 years (Wilhelm)	105 years (Wilhelm)	103 years (Wilhelm)	98 years (Wilhelm)	30 years (Canon)	30 years (Canon)	105 years (Wilhelm)	98 years (Wilhelm)	30 years (Canon)
PHYSICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL									
Standard interfaces	USB Hi-Speed, PictBridge USB	USB, PictBridge USB	USB Hi-Speed, PictBridge USB	USB Hi-Speed, PictBridge USB	USB Hi-Speed, PictBridge USB	USB Hi-Speed, PictBridge USB, IrDA infrared	USB Hi-Speed	USB Hi-Speed, PictBridge USB	USB Hi-Speed, PictBridge USB
Optional interfaces	None	Bluetooth wireless	Bluetooth wireless	Bluetooth wireless	None	Bluetooth wireless	None	None	None
Dimensions (HxWxD)	210x450x414mm	171x458x382mm	173x463x388mm	210x450x414mm	160x444x303mm	183x429x304mm	187x575x409mm	223x615x314mm	191x660x354mm
Weight	6.5kg	5kg	7.4kg	6.5kg	6.8kg	7.5kg	12kg	11.5kg	13.5kg
Noise	49dB(A)	Not disclosed	Not disclosed	36dB(A)	34dB(A)	35dB(A)	Not disclosed	47dB(A)	37dB(A)
Duty cycle (sheets per month)	Not disclosed	3,000 pages	3,000 pages	Not disclosed	Not disclosed	Not disclosed	5,000 pages	Not disclosed	Not disclosed
Power consumption printing	12W	4W	4W	12W	12W	17W	60W	16W	20W
Power consumption sleep mode	1W	Not disclosed	Not disclosed	1W	1W	2W	Not disclosed	2W	2W
PAPER HANDLING									
Maximum paper size	A4/legal	A4/legal, custom length up to 610mm	A4/legal, custom length up to 610mm	A4/legal	A4/legal	A4/legal	A3+, custom length up to 1,270mm	A3+	A3+
Maximum paper weight	300gsm	280gsm	280gsm	300gsm	273gsm	273gsm	280gsm	300gsm	270gsm
Standard paper trays (capacity)	2 (120)	2 (125)	2 (125)	1 (120)	2 (300)	2 (300)	1 (150)	1 (120)	2 (151)
Maximum paper trays (capacity)	1 (120)	2 (125)	2 (125)	1 (120)	2 (300)	2 (300)	1 (150)	1 (0)	2 (151)
Duplex	N/A	N/A	Q5582A, £30	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A
PHOTO FEATURES									
Exif/PictBridge/DPOF support	No/Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes/No	Yes/Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes/Yes	No/No/No	Yes/Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes/Yes
Borderless printing	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A4	A3+	A3+	A3+
Direct (PC-less) printing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Memory card support	None	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick/Duo, xD	None	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, Secure Digital High Capacity, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick/Pro, MicroDrive, xD	None	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick/Pro, Smart Media, MicroDrive	None	None	None
CD printing	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
GENERAL									
Technology	Piezo inkjet	Thermal inkjet	Thermal inkjet	Piezo inkjet	Thermal inkjet	Thermal inkjet	Thermal inkjet	Piezo inkjet	Thermal inkjet
Supported operating systems	Windows 98 SE/Me/2000/XP, Windows Vista via download, Mac OS X 10.2.8 or later	Windows 98 SE/Me/2000/XP, basic Vista driver available to download, Mac OS X 10.3.9, OS X 10.4.x	Windows 98 SE/Me/2000/XP, basic Vista driver available to download, Mac OS X 10.3.9, OS X 10.4	Windows 98 SE/Me/2000/XP, Windows Vista via download, Mac OS X 10.2.8 or later	Windows 98/Me/2000/XP, Windows Vista available to download, Mac OS X 10.2.8 to 10.4	Windows 98/Me/2000/XP, Windows Vista available to download, Mac OS X 10.2.8 to 10.4	Windows 2000/XP, basic Vista driver available to download, Mac OS X 10.3, OS X 10.4 or later	Windows 98 SE/Me/2000/XP, Windows Vista available to download, Mac OS X 10.2.8, OS X 10.3.9 or later	Windows 98/Me/2000/XP, Windows Vista available to download, Mac OS X 10.2.8 or later
Other features	None	Mono LCD screen, automatic head alignment	Automatic head alignment	8.9cm colour screen	Automatic head alignment	8.9cm colour screen, automatic head alignment	Automatic head alignment, PCL level 3 with eight resident fonts	None	Automatic head alignment
Other options	Three-year warranty extension ECPGRP25, £53	#100 grey photo cartridge £13, warranty extension to three years, next business day (U4778E) £40	Warranty extension to three years, next business day (U4778E) £40	Three-year warranty extension ECPGRP25, £53	None	None	Warranty extension to three years, next business day (H3680A) £68	None	None
BUYING INFORMATION									
Price including VAT	£52	£58	£68	£82	£93	£106	£204	£255	£403
Quoted life of supplied black cartridge(s)	300 pages (ISO/IEC 24712)	860 pages (ISO/IEC 24712)	1,120 pages (ISO/IEC 24712)	300 pages (ISO/IEC 24712)	Pigment black 530 pages (ISO/IEC 24712)	291 pages (ISO/IEC 24712)	480 (ISO/IEC 24712)	470 pages (ISO/IEC 24712)	412 pages (ISO/IEC 24712)
Quoted life of supplied colour cartridge(s)	Cyan 900, magenta 440, yellow 460, photo cyan 910, photo magenta 590 pages (ISO/IEC 24712)	600 pages (ISO/IEC 24712)	Cyan 410, magenta 370, yellow 500, photo cyan 9,900 (HP estimate), photo magenta 9,200 (HP estimate) pages (ISO/IEC 24712)	Cyan 900, magenta 440, yellow 460, photo cyan 910, photo magenta 590 pages (ISO/IEC 24712)	Dye black 5,395 (Canon estimate), cyan 890, magenta 695, yellow 710 pages (ISO/IEC 24712)	Cyan 880, magenta 630, yellow 600, photo cyan 3,615 (Canon estimate), photo magenta 3,505 (Canon estimate) pages (ISO/IEC 24712)	570 (ISO/IEC 24712)	Cyan 1,425, magenta 685, yellow 715, photo cyan 660, photo magenta 930 pages (ISO/IEC 24712)	Cyan 640, magenta 498, yellow 545, photo cyan 5,715 (Canon estimate), photo magenta 5,630 (Canon estimate), red 5,780 (Canon estimate), green 5,845 (Canon estimate) pages (ISO/IEC 24712)
Quoted life of supplied photo cartridge(s)	N/A	125 10x15cm photos (HP testing)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	130 10x15cm photos (HP testing)	N/A	N/A
Cost per ISO/IEC 24712 A4 page including VAT	4.9p	4.6p	5.5p	4.9p	4.2p	5.6p	4.8p	6.8p	5.6p
Cost per ISO/IEC 24712 A4 page inc VAT (colour component)	3.5p	3p	4.1p	3.5p	2.5p	3p	3.2p	4.7p	1.9p
Cost per ISO/IEC 24712 A4 page inc VAT (mono component)	1.4p	1.6p	1.4p	1.4p	1.7p	2.6p	1.6p	2.2p	3.7p
Warranty duration and terms	One year RTB	One year RTB	One year RTB	One year RTB	One year RTB	One year RTB	One year RTB	One year RTB	One year RTB
Supplier	www.amazon.co.uk	www.amazon.co.uk	www.morecomputers.co.uk	www.amazon.co.uk	www.misco.co.uk	www.amazon.co.uk	www.dabs.com	www.morecomputers.co.uk	www.misco.co.uk
Details	www.epson.co.uk	www.hp.co.uk	www.hp.co.uk	www.epson.co.uk	www.canon.co.uk	www.canon.co.uk	www.hp.co.uk	www.epson.co.uk	www.canon.co.uk
Part code	C11C653021	Q7091B	C9089B	C11C658021	1439B008AA	1441B008AA	Q8492B	C11C655031	9995A016AA

Labs verdict Photo inkjet printers

Epson's Stylus Photo R265 is a great photo printer. It costs less than our current Best Buy general-purpose inkjet (Canon's PIXMA iP4300), but delivers sensationally good photo prints. At its highest quality settings, you'd need to take a magnifying glass to its prints to spot that they didn't come from a lab. It's a bargain, and it wins our Best Buy award.

Unfortunately the R265 isn't so good at printing on plain paper. If you need a printer

that can create everyday prints as well as photos, Canon's PIXMA iP6700D is the best in this group. Unfortunately, it's expensive. HP's Photosmart D7160, which received a Best Buy award in January 2007, is now far better value.

If you want the option to print on A3+ paper, Epson's Stylus Photo 1400 is the best choice. Its prints are far superior to those from HP's Photosmart Pro B8350 and better also than Canon's PIXMA Pro 9000, which costs almost £150 more. It's our A3+ Best Buy. 

A4 PHOTO INKJET



EPSON Stylus Photo R265

★★★★★



A3+ PHOTO INKJET



EPSON Stylus Photo 1400

★★★★★

